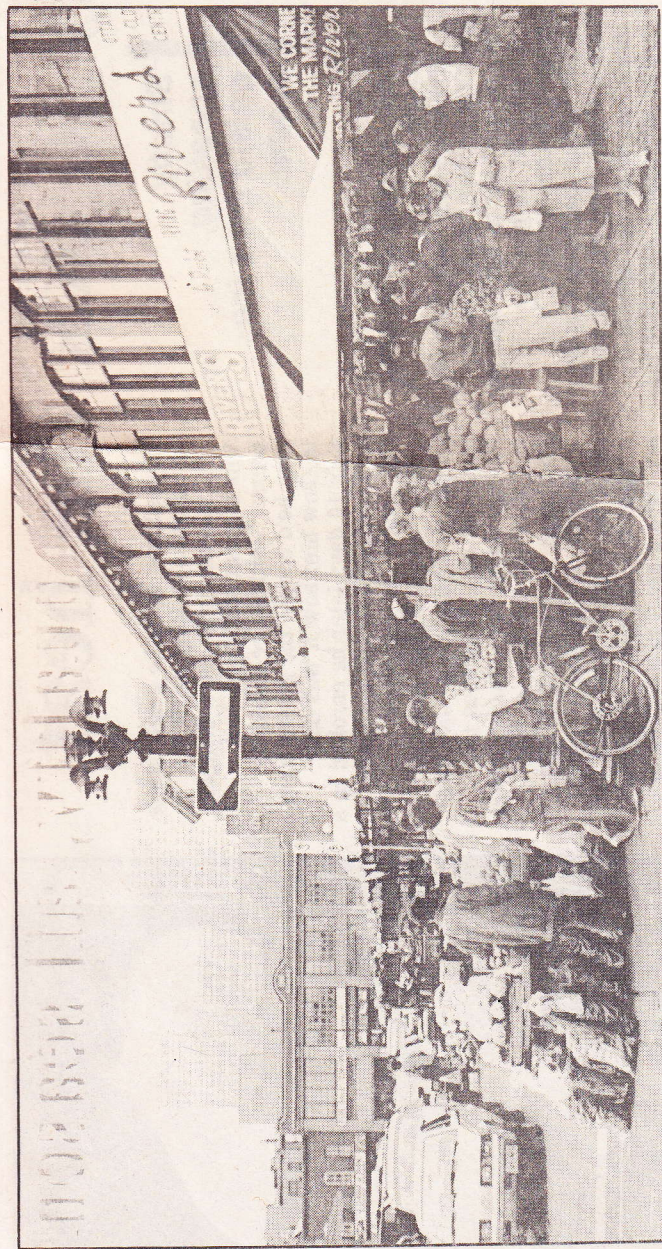


— National Archives of Canada  
**Always busy:**  
Commercial success  
from the onset.





# The ByWard Market: More than 160 years of history

In the late 1820's, while overseeing the construction of the Rideau Canal, Colonel John By first submitted the plans of what would become an official public market in 1848 — the By Ward Market.

Situated in the heart of Ottawa, five minutes from Parliament Hill, the By Ward Market is the oldest continuously operating outdoor market in Canada.

**The By Ward Market, then as now... a meeting place**

From the onset the By Ward Market was a commercial success and by the 1850's it was the centre of economic activity for Bytown, now known as the City of Ottawa.

During these years the Market developed rapidly to its present day configuration between George and York Streets, much as Colonel By had originally planned.

Local merchants and farmers from neighboring counties favored the area and congregated each day around the new Market building

**By Ward Market  
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ing to offer their wares to the public.

In addition to being an active commercial sector, the By Ward Market was also a centre of social and cultural life for the young city.

Succeeding Market buildings served as public halls for political and religious meetings. The Market was home to Ottawa's first newspaper the "Bytown Packet".

The agricultural and cultural traditions of the By Ward Market are still alive today. Farmers from all over the Ottawa Valley continue to offer their fresh produce daily, during the summer months, while throughout the Market, food retailers cater to all

tastes and needs year round. Since major renovations in 1976, the By Ward Market Building now houses some of the region's finest artists and artisans.

The Artists' Alley, on William Street, has a rich variety of arts and crafts. Musicians and street performers still amuse the crowd with their antics, and pass the hat for contributions.

**A vision for the future...**

Colonel By was the first to have a vision of a vibrant public Market back in the 1820's. In 1993, Ottawa Council adopted a strategic plan for the Market which intends to uphold Colonel By's vision.

The aim of the Plan is to enhance the producer-based concept of the outdoor Market and to recognize the By Ward Market as a centre for food retailing.

The objectives of this strategic plan will ensure that the By Ward Market will remain, for years to come, an important economic and cultural meeting place.



**Fresh produce:** Agricultural tradition.

— Department of Economic Development